CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments made be considered and made of record.

It is believed that no fee is due for the submission of this Preliminary Amendment. If any fees are deemed to be due, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

An early and favorable decision is earnestly solicited.

Very truly yours,
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 13, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 25 as follows:

- - Certain preferred COX-2 inhibitors include celecoxib (SC-58635), **[DUP-697] 5-bromo-s-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(methylsufonyl)phenyl] thiophene (DUP-697)**, flosulide (CGP-28238), meloxicam, 6-methoxy-2 naphthylacetic acid (6-MNA), Vioxx (MK-966), nabumetone (prodrug for 6-MNA), nimesulide, **[NS-398] N-[2-(cyclohexyloxy)-4-nitrophenyl] methanesulfonamide (NS-398)**, **[SC-5766] 1-fluoro-4-[2-[4-methylsufonyl)phenyl]-1-cyclopenten-1-yl] benzene (SC-5766)**, **[SC-58215] 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1[4-(methylsufonyl)phenyl]-3-trifluoromethyl 1H-pyrazole (SC-58215)**, **[T-614] N-[3-(formylamino)-4-oxo-6-phenoxy-4H-1-benzopyran-7-yl] methanesulfonamide (T-614)**; or combinations thereof. --

IN THE CLAIMS

30. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an analgesic combination consisting essentially of nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;** and oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

31. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** would be sub-therapeutic if administered without the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

32. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;** and nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** are administered orally, via implant, parenterally, sublingually, rectally, topically, or via inhalation.

35. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** to nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.

36. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** synergistically potentiates the effect of the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** but the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** does not synergistically potentiate the effect of the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

37. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34, wherein the oral solid dosage form includes a sustained release carrier which causes the sustained release of the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;** the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof**; or both the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** and the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** when the dosage form contacts gastrointestinal fluid.

38. (Amended) A method of effectively treating pain in humans or other mammals, comprising administering to a patient an analgesic combination consisting essentially of nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;** and oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** such that the dosing interval of the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** overlaps with the dosing interval of the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

39. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** and the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** are administered orally.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** and the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** are administered in a single oral dosage form.

41. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** would be sub-therapeutic if administered without the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

42. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** is administered before, simultaneously with, or after administration of the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof**, such that the dosing interval of the nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** overlaps with the dosing interval of the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

43. (Amended) A method of reducing the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** required to treat a patient affected with pain, comprising co-administering said oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** with **[said]** nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,** to augment the analgesia attributable to said oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** during at least a portion of the dosage interval of said oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

44. (Amended) A method of reducing the amount of nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** required to treat a patient affected with pain comprising co-administering said nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** with an effective amount of oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,** to augment the analgesia attributable to said nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** during at least a portion of the dosage interval of said nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.**

45. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim **[1] 30**, wherein the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** is present in an amount from about 2.5 mg to about 800 mg.

46. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** is present in an amount from about 2.5 mg to about 800 mg.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the ratio of oxycodone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** to nabumetone **and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof** is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.